

13. (New) The coin-shaped IC card reader/writer according to claim 12, wherein inner circumferential surfaces of the guide plates are formed in curved surface shape.
14. (New) The coin-shaped IC card reader/writer according to claim 13, further comprising a rotating position detection sensor at a position adjacent to the distributing lever, for detecting a rotating position of the distributing lever.
15. (New) The coin-shaped IC card reader/writer according to claim 12, wherein the another two coin-shaped IC card guide paths comprise a coin-shaped IC card collecting path for collecting the coin-shaped IC card, and a coin-shaped IC card return path for returning the coin-shaped IC card.
16. (New) The coin-shaped IC card reader/writer according to claim 12, further comprising coin diameter detection means provided at a card deposit slot formed at a starting end of the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path, for detecting whether or not a diameter of a coin shaped object deposited in a card deposit slot has a specific size.

REMARKS

In the above-identified office action the examiner has rejected claims 2 and 10-11 as unpatentable over Rigo, the applicant has amended claim 2 so that it now recites that the partition plate retains the coin-shaped IC card at a position opposite to a central portion of the shaft. Although the shaft is rotated while the coin-shaped IC card is maintained opposite the central portion of the shaft. None of this is taught by the art of record, and particularly is not taught by Rigo. Accordingly, claim 2 is considered patentable thereover.

The examiner has explained his rejection of claims 6, 7, 8, and 9 under Rigo. However, he has not specifically rejected them as being unpatentable over Rigo. Applicant will assume this is an error, and will consider claims 6-9 as being rejected in view of Rigo and not claim 10-11 as stated. Claims 6-9, being ultimately dependent upon claim 2, are also patentable in view of the above remarks.

Claims 3-5 and 10-11 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Rigo in view of Abe. Applicant has amended claim 3 so that it now recites that the drive means consists of a single drive unit. Neither Abe nor Rigo teach the use of a drive means in their apparatus and, accordingly, the use of a single drive unit would not be obvious therefrom. As a result, the Applicant believes that claims 3-5 and 10-11 are patentable as amended over Rigo in view of Abe.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and re-examination thereof.

With the above amendments, this application is considered ready for allowance, and Applicants earnestly solicit an early notice of same. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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